



AETC Bases News Clips

Sheppard AFB, TX



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Sheppard blood drive breaks state record

By Daniel Bartel
Times Record News
January 28, 2003

It wasn't just any blood drive at Sheppard Air Force Base on Monday.

It was the "Super Bowl" of blood drives.

Training students, officers and civilians showed up in droves at the Officer's Club to give blood.

"This is the Super Bowl of blood drives, and we're winning," said Daren Coats, senior donor recruitment representative with the American Red Cross.

Monday's effort was the brainchild of Brig. Gen. Arthur Rooney, commander of the 82nd Training Wing at SAFB. It was intended to break the record for most blood collected during a one-day drive by the American Red Cross in the southwest region, Coats said.

The record had been held by Plano East High School, which collected 457 units. By the end of the day, 653 units had been collected and more than 800 people tried to donate.

"It's always a struggle encouraging people to give blood," he said. "And just because we have blood today doesn't mean we'll have it tomorrow."

A competitive atmosphere echoed throughout the banquet hall of the Officer's Club.

Donors stood in a 30-minute line that snaked from the entrance lobby, where the donors stood clutching their yellow forms, all the way to the banquet hall, where donors rested on cots squeezing foam balls.

"We're all pretty close to being exhausted, but we're working in shifts so we don't have to be on our feet all day," Thomas Nors, a nurse with the Red Cross in Waco, said.

He was one of about 60 Red Cross nurses from agencies in the southwest region who came to the base to help. Nors and the Waco staff awoke early Monday and caravanned to SAFB, arriving around 5 a.m.

The event was intended to raise awareness of the constant need for blood, Coats said. The region and nation are suffering from a blood supply shortage.

"There's a lot of complacency out there," Coats said. "People just think blood is going to be there for them."

The number of people who need blood far outweighs the number of people giving. According to the Red Cross, less than five percent of eligible donors actually give, he said.

Most of the donors said the need for blood was the main reason they chose to give. Many of them, like Gretchen Faulkner, a 20-year-old Chicago native, had given blood before.

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"I've done it about three times, but it always makes me a little nauseated," she said. "But I give anyway because I know it's going to save lives."

Most donors Monday were trainees between the ages of 18 and 22, Adrienne Schmedthorst, a SAFB point of contact officer, said.

"Most of them are eligible because they haven't been overseas yet," she said. "We had to turn away hundreds who wanted to give today but couldn't because they were ineligible."

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AETC Bases News Clips

Altus AFB OK



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Army National Guard to provide security at Altus

ALTUS AIR FORCE BASE — More than 60 Army National Guard soldiers will report soon to Altus Air Force Base to augment Air Force security forces under a memorandum of agreement between the Army and the Air Force.

The two services, in coordination with the assistant secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, agreed for the Army to mobilize

Army National Guard and Army Reserve soldiers to provide security at designated Air Force installations. The Army will augment force protection at Air Force installations worldwide for up to two years while the Air Force phases in permanent solutions.

"We are leveraging all our active and Reserve assets in the spirit of joint operations and inter-service cooperation," said Thomas F.

Hall, assistant secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs. "We intend to ensure that our Guard and Reserve are assigned the right missions, fully integrated within the active component and deployed in the right numbers required to deter adversaries and help fight and win any conflict."

"This is an example of two services working together in a spirit of cooperation, to ensure fair-

ness and an equitable distribution on the duration, extent and assigned missions of our armed forces," said Maj. Wayne Dockery, 97th Security Forces Squadron commander. "In this case, the Army has the basic expertise and resources necessary to augment our mission."

The initiative is a temporary relief effort for stressed career fields until permanent solutions

are phased in. There are a number of Air Force initiatives being studied and implemented to shift military resources to stressed career fields, to review the military-to-civilian-to-contractor mix, and to make better use of technology.

"There are a number of Air Force initiatives being studied and implemented to shift military resources to stressed career fields," Dockery said.